

CLAIMS

1. A method of rendering a multimedia signal (401;409), the multimedia signal comprising:
 - 5 events (407) of a first type arranged to carry content in the form of instructions to a rendering unit; and
 - an event (406) of a second type arranged to carry additional content (410), wherein said additional content comprises an address identifying an encoded sample of multimedia content;
 - 10 wherein the method comprises the following steps:
 - generating a multimedia output in response to the events of the first type;
 - parsing (602) the multimedia signal (401;409) to identify said event (406) of the second type and to read the additional content (410);
 - loading (607) the encoded sample of multimedia content (402) identified by
 - 15 said address;
 - decoding (611) the encoded sample to provide a decoded sample for playback of the multimedia content; and
 - superimposing (609) the decoded sample on the generated multimedia output in accordance with timing information associated to the event of the
 - 20 second type.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the timing information comprises a delta time value defining a time relative to a reference time.
- 25 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the event of the second type includes a textual information of one or more predetermined commands, the one or more commands identifying an encoded sample.
4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein superimposing
- 30 comprises synchronising the decoded sample with the multimedia output based on the timing information.

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the multimedia signal and the encoded sample are comprised in a container data item.
- 5 6. A method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a System Exclusives event as defined in the specification of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).
- 10 7. A method according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event as defined in the specification of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).
- 15 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event of the type cue-points, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 07.
- 20 9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event of the type lyric, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 05.
- 25 10. A method according to claim 7, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event of the type text, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 01.
- 30 11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein an address indicates a position in a first file (402; 303) associated with the multimedia signal.
12. A method according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the multimedia signal is stored in a second file (302).

13. A method according to any of claims 1 to 12, wherein the additional content comprises an indication of the type of the coding scheme used for encoding the encoded samples.
- 5 14. A method according to any of claims 1 to 13, wherein the multimedia signal complies with the general Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) specification.
- 10 15. A unit for rendering a multimedia signal (401;409), the multimedia signal comprising:
events (407) of a first type which are arranged to carry content in the form of instructions to the unit; and
an event (406) of a second type arranged to carry additional content, wherein said additional content comprises an address identifying an encoded sample
15 of multimedia content;
wherein the unit comprises:
a playback unit (202) adapted to generate a multimedia output in response to the events of the first type;
a parser (201) arranged to identify the event (406) of the second type and to
20 read the additional content (410);
an interface (204) arranged to load the encoded sample of multimedia content identified by said address, and to cause a decoder to decode the decoded sample for subsequent playback of the multimedia content;
a synchronising unit (210) adapted to synchronise playback of the decoded
25 sample with the generation of the multimedia output.
16. A unit according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia signal complies with the general Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) specification.
- 30 17. A unit according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the timing information comprises a delta time value defining a time relative to a reference time.

18. A unit according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the event of the second type includes a textual information of one or more predetermined commands, the one or more commands identifying an encoded sample.
- 5 19. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 18, wherein the multimedia signal and the encoded sample are comprised in a container data item.
20. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 19, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a System Exclusives event as defined in the
10 specification of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).
21. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 19, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event as defined in the specification of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).
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22. A unit according to claim 21, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event of the type cue-points, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 07.
- 20 23. A unit according to claim 21, wherein the event (406) of the second type comprises a Meta-event of the type lyric, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 05.
24. A unit according to claim 21, wherein the event (406) of the second type
25 comprises a Meta-event of the type text, identified by the hexadecimal value FF 01.
25. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 24, wherein an address indicates a position in a first file (402; 303) associated with the multimedia signal.
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26. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 25, wherein the multimedia signal is stored in a second file (302).

5 27. A unit according to any of claims 15 to 26, wherein the additional content comprises an indication of the type of the coding scheme used for encoding the encoded samples.

10 28. A computer program product comprising program code means adapted to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 through 14, when said program code means are executed on a data processing device.